

The Lancaster Gazette.

Presence of God.

The habitual conviction of the presence of God is the sovereign remedy in temptation; it supports, it controls, it calms us. We must not be surprised that we are tempted. We are placed here to be proved by temptations. Everything is temptation to us. Crosses irritate our pride, and prosperity flattens; our life is a continual warfare, but Jesus Christ combats with us. We must let temptations, like a tempest, beat upon our heads, and still move on; like a traveler surprised on the way by a storm, who wraps his cloak about him, and goes on his journey in spite of the opposing elements.

In a certain sense, there is little to do in doing the will of God. Still it is true that it is a great work, because it must be without any reserve. This spirit enters the secret foldings of our hearts, and even the most upright affections, and the most necessary attachments, must be regulated by his will; but it is not the multitude of hard duties, it is not constraint and contention, that advance us in our Christian course. On the contrary, it is the yielding of our wills, without restriction and without choice, to tread cheerfully every day in the path in which Providence leads us, to seek nothing, to be disengaged by nothing, to trust all else without reserve to the will and power of God. Let us pray to our heavenly Father that our wills may be swallowed up in his.—Fenton.

* * * Autumn.

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It is the beauty of a thing completed; and as men come together to congratulate each other when some great work has been achieved, and see in its concluding but gladness, so ought we to feel when the setting sun flings back its beams upon a life that has answered well life's purposes. When the bud drops blighted, and the mildew blasts the early grain, and there goes all hope of the harvest, one may well be sad; but when the ripened year sinks amid the garniture of autumn flowers and leaves, why should we regret or murmur? And so a life that is ready and waiting the "well done" of God, whose noblest virtues and charities are its noblest, should be given back to God in uncomplaining reverence, rejoicing that the earth is capable of so much goodness, and is permitted such virtue.

UNSUCCESSFUL IN THIS LIFE.—I confess that increasing years bring with them an increasing respect for those who do not succeed in life, as those words are commonly used. Heaven is said to a place for those who have not succeeded upon earth; and it is surely true that celestial graces do not best thrive and bloom in the hot blaze of worldly prosperity. His success sometimes arises from superabundance of qualities in themselves good, from a conscience too sensitive, a taste too fastidious, a self-forgetfulness too romantic a modesty too retiring. I will not go so far as to say, with a living poet, "that the world knows nothing of its greatest men," but there are 60 ms of greatness, or at least excellence, that die and make no sign; there are martyrs that miss the pain but not the stake; there are heroes without the laurel, and conquerors without the triumph.

The Cities and the Union.

From Bangor to San Francisco, a great majority of the citizens of seven-eighths of the cities of the loyal States have submerged all past political differences in a common and absorbing resolve that the Union shall emerge triumphantly from its present fiery trial. Augusta, Bath, Portland, Portsmouth, Manchester, Concord; Boston, Lowell, Worcester, Springfield; Providence, New London, Norwich, Middletown, Bridgeport, Norwalk; Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Erie, Wilmington; Baltimore, Hagerstown, Frederick; Cumberland; Cincinnati, Dayton, Cleveland, Steubenville; Indianapolis, Lafayette, Terre Haute; St. Louis, Jefferson City, St. Joseph; Denver, Virginia City, Genoa; Placerville, Sacramento, Stockton—give decided and often overwhelming majorities for the Union tickets, though many if not most of them were anti-Republican in by-gone days, and gave majorities for Lincoln in 1860. They thus vote, not in deference to any party dogma, but in pursuance of their overruling purpose to "sink or swim, survive or perish," with the American Republic and our Federal Union.—N. Y. Tribune.

SPECULATIVE.—Some of our exchanges are indulging in speculations as to the probability of Epsom Old resigning his seat in the Legislature as the representative of Fairfield county. They do not know the chancery, or they could make closer calculations as to his movements. There is a single alternative in the case: unless he is so mixed up with the Cathcart enterprise, as to bring dazzling images of Fort Lafayette, the \$4 a day will anchor him.—Columbus Gazette.

J. F. LOYD, in a communication in the Western Christian Advocate says:

"One of our delegates brings the cheering intelligence that President Lincoln has recently experienced the saving power of Divine grace, and that he now delights to converse on the subject of experimental Christianity." We hope this may be true, as the President doubtless needs a large amount of Divine grace to guide him through the dark storms of war, and the perplexities that surround his position.



GEO. H. SMITH, JR.
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GEO. SMITH, Jr.

Lancaster, May 22, 1863.—G.

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